



WING BEAT NEWS



REGION 2—SACRAMENTO VALLEY/CENTRAL SIERRA COUNTIES

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SPRING 2002

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SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

Scott Gardner, DFG wild turkey biologist, says that the 2002 spring turkey season is going to be very good. The spring weather in 2001 produced an above average crop of young turkeys. Spring turkey season is from March 30- May 5, 2002. The spring season bag and possession limit is one bearded turkey per day and three per season. A bearded turkey is one having a beard visible through the breast feathers. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required to hunt turkeys.

Spring shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.

In California, the Rio Grande turkeys are found in the blue oak covered foothills and sometimes in the valley river bottom habitat.

When scouting an area for turkey sign look for tracks, feathers, scratching, dusting areas and droppings. Look for dusting areas with tracks in them or roost trees with droppings and feathers under them. In dry areas, search around water sources for turkey tracks. The best times to look or listen for turkeys include the early morning hours from one-half hour before sunrise until mid-morning, and late in the evening as the turkeys go to roost.

The male turkey gobbles primarily for two reasons: to attract hens for breeding purposes, and asserting dominance. Although more common in the spring, gobblers can be heard throughout the year.

Turkeys also "yelp". Both gobblers and hens, as well as young turkeys (jakes and jennies) will use one form or another of the yelp, often as a basic communication call.

There are many different types of yelps, ranging from quiet tree yelps made by hens while still on the roost, to louder, coarse gobbler yelps made by both adult and juvenile males. The translation of any yelp depends largely on the call's volume, intensity, cadence or rhythm, and frequency, or how often it's repeated or the length of the call's duration. A tree yelp, for instance, may contain only three or four low-volume calls, while a turkey that's become separated from the flock may yelp 18 or 20 times in a row, and with much more enthusiasm and volume.

If you do not hear gobblers calling, try a crow call, owl call, shock call, or predator call in early morning or just before dark. Gobblers will often respond, giving away their location.

The most effective way to call a spring gobbler is by reproducing the sounds a hen makes. The easiest calls to master are the friction calls (box, peg and slate, peg and glass, or push button). Diaphragm mouth calls are the most versatile calls but require much practice.

Beginners should remember that it is better to call too softly than too loudly, and to call too rarely than too frequently. Timing, or rhythm, can be more important than the actual quality of sound.

The best camouflage clothing is both protective and comfortable. Hands, face, and gun should be camouflaged. The illusion of depth is the key to a great camouflage clothing pattern. Earth tone colorations and careful arrangement of simulated limbs, leaves, sticks, and twigs in clothing can make one disappear into the surrounding terrain. Never wear clothing that contains the colors red, white, or blue because they can be mistaken for colors found on wild turkeys.

Shot size used to hunt wild turkeys is typically #4, #5, or #6. A turkey hunter shoots for a specific spot on the bird, namely the head and neck. Multiple pellet hits in this area is the best way to bag a wild turkey.

Jakes are 1-year old or younger toms which have spent the fall establishing dominance among them. They usually avoid the older toms and come silently to a hen call. In addition to establishing hunting regulations that promote healthy wild turkey populations, another key component of the Department's management efforts for wild turkeys is an aggressive trap-and-transplant program. For many years, the Department has expanded the Rio Grande

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Wild Turkey into many new locations in lower elevation oak woodlands. Most public lands at this elevation now have wild turkeys and the Department is now focusing transplant efforts on the Merriam's Wild Turkey. This type of wild turkey is adapted for higher elevation habitats, many of which are publicly owned national forests.

Proper Use of Decoys - By The National Wild Turkey Federation

1. A decoy should never be visible while being transported, cover it.
2. Whenever possible, set-up by a "stand" tree that is wider than your shoulders and taller than your head.
3. From your seated position; identify the clearest line of vision to your front. Establish a "sight line" that allows you 100 yards visibility. Then set your decoy(s) approximately 20 yards from your position on the line.
4. Should you see another hunter (especially if he/she is close to your "line of sight") call out to them in a loud, clear voice. Their presence has already compromised your location and a "soft" call may only confuse them, rather than alerting them to your presence.
5. If you are calling over decoys and then elect to move to a new location, check carefully to ensure that no one is stalking your decoys. Check before leaving your "stand" tree. Should you see someone in the area, rule 4 applies.

Plan to attend the fifth annual free turkey hunting training seminar on Saturday, March 16, 2002, from noon to 4 pm at the Elk Grove Elks Lodge located at 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove. See news article in this issue.

Other turkey hunting seminars are at the Chico Sportsmen's Den, three turkey hunting seminars at Long's Drug Store in Marysville, Angels Camp and Valley Springs. Also in Oakley at Hook Line and Sinker. See news article on Page 5.

Places to Hunt Wild Turkeys with a Reservation
(Reservations may only be required for the first few days of turkey season)

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres - Type C Area) and **Daugherty Hill WA** (4,200 acres - Type C Area) - Both WA's are 20 miles east of Marysville. Permits issued by drawing at the DFG, Region 2 office for Sat., Sun., and Wed., for the first 9 days of spring turkey season. Non-reservation public hunting begins Monday, April 8, 2002. No reservations needed during the fall season. For maps call DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900. See reservation info.

Oroville Wildlife Area (11,871 acres - Type C Area) West side of Oroville WA. All spring turkey hunting by reservation only. No fall turkey hunting on this area. For maps call DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Reservation Info:

Spenceville Wildlife Area and Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area - Drawing Open to All. Hunt dates: March 30, March 31, April 3, April 6 and April 7, 2002.

Oroville Wildlife Area - Drawing Open to All. Hunt Periods: March 30-31, April 13-14, and April 27-28, 2002. Contact (916) 358-2900. How to Apply for Spenceville, Daugherty Hill and Oroville WA's: Fill out a standard, 4x6 US post card with the hunter's name, address, phone and hunting license number. Include which area you are applying for and your choice of hunt dates in order of preference. Up to two hunters may apply per postcard and both must include their hunting license number. You may submit only one application for each of the three wildlife area drawings. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, CA, 95670. All applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2002 and the computer drawing will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2002. Each successful applicant will receive a permit, map and instructions by March 20, 2002 via mail. Successful applicants will also be posted at the address listed above. Forty spaces per day are available at Spenceville WA, 21 per day at Daugherty Hill WA and 15 per hunt period at Oroville WA.

Lake Sonoma - 14 miles west of Healdsburg. Fall and spring turkey hunting by reservation only. For information contact the DFG, Region 3 at 707 944-5500. No other hunting allowed.

Lake Sonoma Spring Turkey Hunt- Area 2 - Drawing Open to All Hunt Date: March 30 and March 31, 2002 Contact: (707) 944-5550 How to Apply: Ten hunters will be drawn for each hunt, and each hunter can take one (1) hunting guest. Applicants may apply for only one hunt day in each season. Fill out a postcard with the hunter's name, address, phone number, hunting license number and hunt date for which you are applying. Send completed postcards (one name per card) to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Sonoma Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 28, 2002 and the drawing will be held on Friday, March 1, 2002.

Lake Sonoma "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt - Area 1, Hunt Dates: April 6 and 7, 2002, Contact: (707) 944-5550 How to Apply: Ten hunters will be drawn for each hunt, and each junior hunter can take one (1) hunting guest. The junior hunter can take either another licensed junior hunter or an adult hunter. All juniors must be accompanied by an adult. Fill out a postcard with the junior hunter's name, address, phone number, hunting license number and hunt day requested. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Sonoma "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 28, 2002 and the drawing will be held on Friday, March 1, 2002.

Lake Mendocino - East of Ukiah. All spring turkey hunting is by permit only. A series of two junior and nine general wild turkey hunts, by permit only, are scheduled to begin March 30, 2002. Access to the hunting area is by boat only. There is a boat-in camp area within the hunt area. No vehicles, horses, or hike-in hunting will be allowed. Hunters shall use shotguns or archery only. Six hunters will be drawn for each hunt. For more information contact the DFG, Region 3 at 707 944-5500. For other hunting info contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 707 462-7581.

Lake Mendocino Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Reservation Information:

Lake Mendocino "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt. Hunt Dates: Sat. March 30 and Sat. April 20, 2002. Contact: (707) 944-5500

How to Apply: Access to the hunt area is by boat only. Fill out a postcard with the hunter's name, mailing address, phone number, boat registration number, or description (if exempt from registration), hunting license number and one date of choice. An adult hunter may apply and hunt with one junior hunter or two junior hunters may apply together on one application and be accompanied by an adult who may not hunt. All juniors must be accompanied by an adult. No more than two hunters may apply on one application. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Mendocino "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5pm on Thursday, March 7, 2002 and the drawing will be held on Friday, March 8, 2002.

Lake Mendocino Spring Turkey Hunt - Drawing Open to All

Hunt Dates: April 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 24, 27, and May 1 and 4, 2002. Contact: (707) 944-5500

How to Apply: Access to the hunt area is by boat only. Fill out a postcard with the hunter's name, address, phone number, boat registration number, or description (if exempt from registration), hunting license number and one date of choice. Up to two hunters may apply per card but you may apply for one date only. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Mendocino Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5pm on Thursday, March 7, 2002 and the drawing will be held on Friday, March 8, 2002.

University of California at Browns Valley "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt - The University of California Field Station is located 20 miles east of Marysville. This is the only hunting offered during the spring season. Nineteen openings are available for each of the 4 hunt days. See application in this issue.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acre of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (85,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo and Colusa Counties. Habitat: Oak grassland and dense chaparral. There are 3 access points. 1. North Fork Cache Creek Trailhead; from Interstate Highway 5 at Williams, go west on Highway 20 approximately 33 miles to the parking lot on the south side of the road. The entrance is immediately past where Highway 20 crosses over North Fork Cache Creek. From Highway 101 at Calpella, go east on Highway 20 about 48 miles to the parking lot. Davis Street Access; take Highway 53 south off Highway 20 to 40th Avenue and turn left at the stop light. Make immediate left and follow to Davis Street. Access is to the left of the Clearlake landfill entrance. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA and mtn quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. An entry permit for hunting, issued by special drawing by the DFG, is required for the first two days of the spring turkey season. The Payne Ranch (13,000 acres) was recently purchased to improve habitat for wildlife and the tule elk herd. Call the BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000 for a detailed map or the DFG at (707) 944-5500

Cache Creek Management Area Spring Wild Turkey Reservation Information: Drawing Open to All

Wild turkey hunts for the opening weekend of the spring wild turkey season at Cache Creek Wildlife Area (DFG) and Cache Creek Management Area (BLM) on March 30 and 31, 2002 will be by permit only, with permits issued by special drawings.

Drawing: All applications must be received by 5:00 pm, Thursday, March 7, 2002, to be included in the drawing on March 8, 2002.

Applications: Applicants may apply for one hunt date only and up to two hunters may apply on an application. Submit a standard Postal Service size postcard (one or two hunters per card) with their area choice (east or west), name & mailing address, telephone number, hunting license number, and one hunt date.

Mail to: DFG, Cache Creek Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. Successful applicants will be issued a permit by mail. Additional information and a map of the hunt area will be included.

Places to Hunt Wild Turkeys Without a Reservation:

Feather River Wildlife Area - Type C Area - Units are located 23-28 miles north of Sacramento on both sides of the Feather River. This WA is occasionally flooded during spring turkey season. The Lake of the Woods Unit (700 acres) is located 25 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard. Walk-in access is south from the Star Bend Fishing Access. The Nelson Slough Unit (800 acres) is located 23 miles north of Sacramento, 17 miles south of Yuba City and under the Highway 99 Feather River Bridge. Access is east or west on Sacramento Avenue. The O'Connor Lake's Unit (471 acres) and the Abbott Lake Unit (439 acres) are 30 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Yuba City at the east end of Star Bend Road. Park on top of the levee at the end of Star Bend Road. For maps call DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2877.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area - The majority of the Recreation Area lands consists of a narrow strip surrounding Oroville Lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to one-half mile or more in some areas. Some U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands adjoin to the Recreation Area. Hunting on or from the water surface of Lake Oroville is prohibited. For a map contact the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 or call (530) 538-2200 or 538-2219.

State Game Refuge 1G in Tehama County is open for spring turkey hunting - 45 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36. State Game Refuges are normally closed to all hunting. For a map call DFG, Region 1 at (530) 225-2300.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres - Type C Area) - Open for hunting all year except for the southern portion, south of Hogsback Road, which is closed to public entry from February 1 to the first Saturday in April for the purpose of not disturbing wintering deer. Habitat is rolling hills covered with oak trees and brush. No pig hunting except during February/March by USE PERMIT only. Deer, wild turkey, coyotes, CA quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbits are popular game species. Located 23 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36. Call (530) 225-2867 or 597-2201 for a map or info.

Black Butte Reservoir (3000 acres) - 25 miles west of Chico via Highway 32 and Newville Road. For a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 19225 Newville Rd, Orland, CA 95963 or call (530) 865-4781. www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/lakes.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Hunting is allowed from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31 and spring turkey season. Only shotguns, rifles or bows and arrows may be used. Popular game species include deer, valley quail, dove, bandtail pigeon and wild turkey. Write the Auburn State RA, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 3266, Auburn, CA 95604 or call (530) 885-4527/988-0205 for maps and information.

El Dorado National Forest, Jenkinson Lake Area - 15 miles east of Placerville. Park Creek Road accesses the ridges on the east and south sides of Jenkinson Lake. For a map contact the El Dorado NF Info Center, 3070 Camino Heights Drive, Camino CA 95709 or call 916 644-6048.

New Hogan Lake (400 acres) - 30 miles east of Stockton. For a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2713 Hogan Dam Blvd., Valley Springs, CA 95252 or call (209) 772-1343.

Mendocino NF east of Covelo (Mendocino County) and in the Lake Pillsbury area (Lake County). For a map contact the Mendocino NF, 420 East Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988 or call (530) 934-3316.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (1,600 acres of DFG land) and **Indian Valley Mgt Area** (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Co.'s -Habitat: Dense chaparral with small scattered pockets of oak grassland. Access: About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 to Walker Ridge Road. Travel north on Walker Ridge Road to Indian Valley Reservoir. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, waterfowl, CA and mtn quail, dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jack-rabbit are present. The BLM has developed two campgrounds with water and restroom facilities. A boat ramp is available at the north and south ends of the lake. Warmwater fishing in the reservoir for largemouth bass, crappie, rainbow trout, bluegill, catfish. Cache Creek below the reservoir is planted with brown trout and is open during trout season. BLM in Ukiah at 707 468-4000.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties. Habitat: Rugged chaparral with some oak woodland. Access from Ukiah, 5 miles via Talmage and Mill Creek roads. Access from Lakeport, 5 miles via Scott Creek Road which is a rugged unimproved dirt road, and is closed during the winter due to impassable high water. Because these roads are narrow and winding with steep slopes, large recreational vehicles and travel trailers are not recommended. The rifle range, located just north of the Willow Creek Day Use Site, has been developed specifically for target shooting. There are 5 camping areas. The 27,000 acre North Cow Mountain RA is closed to Off-Highway Vehicles. The 23,000 acre South Cow Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle RA has developed roads for OHV recreation. Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah (707) 468-4000.

National Forests in the Sierras Nevada Mtns. - The lower elevation areas sometimes have turkeys. Purchase a National Forest map and hike the lowest elevation areas looking for turkey sign in the oak groves.

Becoming an OutdoorsWoman

The Department of Fish and Game sponsors Becoming an OutdoorsWoman programs in Northern, Central and Southern California. We currently offer two full workshops per year and a number of smaller one and two day topic specific workshops. Becoming an OutdoorsWoman is a program primarily geared for women, but is an opportunity for anyone 18 years or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing but useful for many outdoor pursuits.

Our workshops are for you if...

you have never tried these activities, but hope for an opportunity to learn.
 you are a beginner who hopes to improve your skills.
 you know how to do some of these activities, but would like to try your hand at some new ones.
 you are just looking for the camaraderie of likeminded individuals.

Full BOW Workshops are scheduled for June 7-9, 2002 at Camp Rancho Alegre, Santa Barbara, California Santa Barbara County, and October 25-27, 2002 at Wonder Valley Ranch, Sanger California Fresno County. Cost is \$195.00

These full threeday workshops accommodate 100 participants and offer 31 different courses: canoe and kayak, archery, camping and backpacking, . . . and many more. We are not yet accepting registration for these two workshops but if you would like more information or to be placed on the mailing list you may phone the BOW Assistant at (916) 653-7748

Schedule of Field Trips for Year 2002

| Date | Cost | Activity | Location |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| January 25-27 | \$150.00 | Surviving in the Snow | Sorensen's Resort - Hope Valley, Calif. - Alpine County |
| March 8-10 | \$175.00 | Cross Country Ski Trip | Rock Creek Lodge - Mammoth Lakes, California |
| April 12-14 | \$100.00 | Map & Compass and Field Orienteering | Joshua Tree National Park - Riverside County |
| April 19-21 | \$90.00 | Fly Fishing | Lake Cachuma - Santa Barbara, California |
| May 18 & Aug 10 | \$50.00 | Canoe and Kayak | Mather Lake - Sacramento, California |
| May 24-26 | \$120.00 | Surf Fishing, and Sea Kayaking | Calamigos Ranch - Malibu, California |
| June 28-30 | \$120.00 (camping) or \$160.00 for Ranch House accommodations | Fly Fishing | Tait Ranch - Frasier Park, California |
| August 24 -25 | \$80.00 | Backpacking Trip | Lassen Volcanic National Park near Helen Lake |
| July 12-14 | \$80.00 | Survival Skills | Loon Lake Group Camp in El Dorado N.F. near Placerville, California |
| July 27 | \$60.00 | Shooting Clinic | Coyote Valley Sporting Clays Club - Morgan Hill, Ca. |
| September TBA | \$90.00 | Guided Duck Hunt | Wilderness Unlimited Property - TBA |
| September 27-29 | \$120.00 | Fly Fishing | Bidwell Ranch, Burney, California - Shasta County |
| November 15-17 | \$85.00 | Birding with Brian | Point Reyes Youth Hostel - Point Reyes, California |

If you are interested in signing up for any of the one and two day workshops, please contact Susan Herrgesell at (916) 653-7448. We look forward to seeing you at a workshop soon!

FREE WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEMINARS

Oakley - Hook, Line and Sinker, 3100 Main Street. Sat., March 2, 2002 from 11 - Noon. More info: 925 625-2441
Speaker - Bruce Worth, owner of American Friction Slate and Box Calls.

Chico - Chico Sportsmen's Den, 465 East 20th Street. Sat., March 9, 2002 from 1-2 PM. More Info: Contact Dave or Duane at 530 891-5238. Speaker - Bruce Worth, owner of American Friction Slate and Box Calls.

Marysville - Long's Drug Store at 830 J Street next to Albertson's. Sat., March 9, 2002. Two seminars beginning at 10AM and 1PM. More info: Contact Barry Butler at (530) 742-3206. Speaker - turkey caller Steve Puppe. Varmint, deer, and elk hunting can also be discussed.

Angels Camp - Long's Drug Store March 9, 2002. Seminar begins at 7 PM. Speaker - turkey caller Steve Puppe. Varmint, deer, and elk hunting can also be discussed.

Valley Springs - Long's Drug Store Sat., March 10, 2002. Seminar begins at 1 PM. Speaker - turkey caller Steve Puppe. Varmint, deer, and elk hunting can also be discussed.

Fifth Annual Wild Turkey Expo Set for March 16 in Elk Grove

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in cooperation with Wilderness Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) will sponsor the fifth Annual Wild Turkey Expo on Saturday, March 16, 2002 in Elk Grove. The seminar is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. at the Elk Grove Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove - just off Highway 99 and Grant Line Road.

The popular free event, which has drawn standing-room-only crowds in the past, will provide comprehensive information on wild turkey biology and hunting, with a strong focus on hunting turkeys on public lands. Topics covered include locating the birds, where to hunt turkeys on public land, calling, turkey habits, camouflage, the use of shotguns and archery equipment, and cooking the turkey. There will also be an equipment demonstration outside, weather permitting. Sporting good booths and like-minded organizations will be on hand to show the latest equipment and share information about other hunting opportunities.

DFG's wild turkey biologist Scott Gardner will offer insight to hunters and naturalists on the wild turkey's habitat and where to find them on public lands. In addition to Gardner, other DFG personnel will be available to answer questions. Veteran turkey hunter Terry Knight, who is also a writer for several outdoor publications, will be a featured speaker at the event and will instruct how to use turkey calls, decoys, archery and shotgun hunting techniques, and camouflage methods. Knight has served as the president of the California State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and operated a successful turkey guiding business for more than 11 years. He annually conducts several training seminars on hunting wild turkeys throughout Northern California. Dan Stahlman, an expert turkey hunter and gunsmith, will discuss shotgun selection and shooting, patterning your shotgun and the proper loads to use. Back by popular demand, there will be a seminar on archery hunting for turkeys by Ron Sneed. Also, champion turkey caller, Bruce Wurth, owner of American Friction which manufactures turkey calls, will be on hand to demonstrate his award-winning calls. A question and answer period will follow.

The four-hour seminar is free and open to the public. For more information contact Susan Herrgesell, Program Coordinator, California Department of Fish and Game (916)-653-7448 or sherrges@dfg.ca.gov. Terry Knight can be reached at (707)-263-1699 or at tlknight@pacific.net.

New this year, the National Wild Turkey Federation will have a dinner/fund raiser following the seminar starting at 5 p.m. The tickets are \$50 and include a membership in the National Wild Turkey Federation, a subscription to one of NWTf's bi-monthly magazines, dinner of tri-tip or chicken, and an open bar. Advanced tickets are available from Michael Cummings at 916-685-4416 or Joe Deaser at 916-481-3487.

CALIFORNIA WOOD DUCK PROGRAM BANQUET IN FAIRFIELD April 6, 2002

The California Waterfowl Association organizes this event to fund the wood duck box program. Last year about 7000 wood duck boxes were monitored by 500 volunteers and over 30,000 ducklings were hatched. Since 1991 well over 180,000 ducklings have been hatched. Please come out and support our wood ducks.

What: Oak Smoked Bar-B-Q Prime Rib and Chicken Dinner

When: Saturday, April 6, 2002, Doors open at 5:30 pm and dinner is at 7:00 pm.

Where: Fairfield Community Center in Fairfield. From Highway 12, take Pennsylvania Avenue exit, make right turn on Pennsylvania and right on Kentucky Street. From I-80, exit Travis Blvd eastbound to Pennsylvania southbound and left on Kentucky to 1000 Kentucky Street.

Cost: \$50/adult includes CWA membership; \$30 for youth under 18 includes Sprig membership.

Reservations or more info: Call CWA at 916 648-1406

An auction and raffle will also be held. Hope to see you there!



One of California's premier wildlife viewing festivals, California Duck Days, will be held February 15-17th, 2002, in the Sacramento Valley region. The festival coincides with the Central Valley's peak migration period of hundreds of thousands of birds traveling down the Pacific Flyway. The headquarters for all festival activities is the Veterans Memorial Center in Davis, 203 E. 14th Street.

This fun, family-oriented festival includes over 40 field trips to view and learn about wildlife areas throughout the Central Valley, many on private land not normally available to the public. The diverse workshop topics include duck calling, decoy carving, waterfowl identification, wetland protection, waterfowl hunting, farming for wildlife and much more.

For more information, call 800-425-5001 or 530-758-1286, or visit www.duckdays.org. California Duck Days is an educational, nonprofit event that inspires people about wetlands and wildlife of the Central Valley in a fun, family-oriented atmosphere. A one-day, on-site-only pass is just \$8. A one-day field trip pass is \$25 and a weekend pass that includes all field trips and on-site events is only \$40. Children 16 and under are admitted free.

A WETLANDS FESTIVAL WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

SUISUN MARSH FIELD DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2002

The California Waterfowl Association has organized an entertainment and information field day at the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area located 15 miles south of Fairfield. Take Highway 12 to Grizzly Island Road and turn south to the wildlife area headquarters. There will be children's activities, wildlife and wildlife art displays, auction, raffle, exhibitors and dog field trials. Bring a lunch or have a BBQ steak lunch. It will be a fun family day. 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday, June 1, 2002.

For More Info: Call CWA at (916) 648-1406

Gray Lodge Annual Clean Up Day Saturday, April 6, 2002

Here is an opportunity to give back to Gray Lodge what waterfowl hunters and outdoor enthusiasts have benefited from over the past year. California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is seeking volunteers for light duty clean up and wood duck box inspection. Plenty of activities will also be available to children of all ages. All family members are encouraged to participate, as the day will be educational, entertaining, and most importantly, improve the quality of our wildlife habitat.

Start time is 8:00 a.m. Coffee, juice and breakfast snacks will be provided prior to hitting the field with an excellent barbecue lunch, raffle and silent auction ending the day around mid afternoon. A small fee of \$5.00 per person will be charged to those eating lunch to help offset food costs.

For more information, please contact Rob Plath (925) 686-0760 or (925) 680-3938.

California Waterfowl Association Kids Camps



The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) will host "Kids Camps" this summer at Red Bluff in northern California. Campers from 10-14 years of age learn the basics of outdoor responsibility. Hunting and fishing skills are taught through the California Hunter Education Program. Campers are tested at the end of their stay and will receive a hunter safety certificate with a passing score.

Campers who already have their hunter education certificate improve their shooting, archery, fly-tying, fly and bait fishing, tracking, bird calling, dog training, survival and first aid, identification and conservation skills. Many outdoor activities keep the campers busy and focused on a great week in the outdoors.

There will be four sessions of six days each starting in the middle of June and ending in July. Beginning camps are for girls and boys ages 10-14 who do not have their Hunter Education Certificate.

Advanced camps are for girls and boys ages 10-14 who already have their Hunter Education Certificate.

Applications are due by May 24, 2002. For more information, please contact either Debbie Pfanner (916) 791-5535, or Judy Oswald at (530) 757-2361, or the CWA office at (916) 648-1406.

Portola Rotary Clubs Lake Davis Fishing Derby

The weekend of June 8-9, 2002 is the date for this popular annual event that offers monetary prizes up to \$20,000 for the right catch! (tagged fish) Also includes prizes from local merchants and others. Entry fee is \$10 per person. All proceeds will be used to provide scholarships and fund local community needs. Pre-register by calling Ken @ (530) 832-4088 weekdays or, sign up at the Lake the day of the event. See you there!

2002 Fishing License Fees

Resident \$30.45
Nonresident \$81.65
Resident Pacific Ocean Only 17.85
Duplicate 6.30

SHORT TERM - ONE, TWO or TEN DAY

Ten-Day Nonresident \$30.45
Two-Day Resident/Nonresident 11.05

One-Day Pacific Ocean Only-Resident/Nonresident
(Fin Fish Only) 6.55

One-Day Pacific Ocean Only-Resident/Nonresident
w/Ocean Enhancement (Fin Fish Only) 7.10

STAMPS

CARDS
Abalone Report Card \$12.60
Salmon Punch Card \$1.05
Steelhead Report Card \$3.40
Second Rod Stamp \$9.70
Resident Fishing Upgrade \$12.60
Ocean Enhancement-Annual \$2.65
Colorado River \$3.00



Fishing in the City Program

Sacramento Valley - Spring and Summer

Spring - Free Fishing Clinics with ponds stocked with trout! Free loan (for 50) of rods, bait and tackle. Anglers 16 years of age and older need a fishing license.

Sat., Feb. 9; 8:30-Noon, **Gibson Ranch County Park**, \$4/car parking (1/4 mile west of Watt Ave on Elverta Road in **Elverta**).

Sat., March 2; 8:30-Noon, **Hagan Park**, clinic and derby (end of Chase Drive, off Coloma road in **Rancho Cordova**)

Sat., March 9; 8:30-Noon, **Southside Park** (6th and V Streets in **downtown Sacramento**)

Summer - The following ponds will have catfish planted on a weekly basis from late May to September.

Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton.

North Laguna Park - 1 mile west of Hwy 99 on Sheldon Road - Center Parkway at Jacinto Way

Mather Lake - 1/2 mile west of South Sunrise Blvd at Douglas & Eagles nest Road, \$2/car parking.

Elk Grove Park - Next to Elk Grove High School, on Elk Grove Florin Road in Elk Grove.

William Land Park - Land Park Drive across from Sacramento Zoo in Sacramento.

Gibson Ranch County Park - 1/4 mile west of Watt Ave on Elverta Road in **Elverta**, \$4/car parking.

Hagan Park -End of Chase Drive, off Coloma road in **Rancho Cordova**.

Southside Park - 6th and V Streets in **downtown Sacramento**.

For more info on when and where fish are being planted (916) 358-2872.

San Francisco Bay Area Public To Learn Clinics

Participants receive 40 minutes of instruction on the basics of fishing and on how to keep local waterways clean. Loaner rods are provided. Valid Fishing licenses are required of anglers 16 years or older except on Free Fishing Days (June 8th and September 21st 2002).

For information on a specific clinic, please call the number listed by the event.

| Date | Lake | City | Contact |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------|
| Saturday, January 20 th | Lopez Lake | San Luis Obispo | (805) 788-2385 |
| Saturday, February 9 th | Lopez Lake | San Luis Obispo | (805) 788-2385 |
| Sunday, Feb 24 th | Spring Valley Lake | Ed Levin County Park | (408) 354-4902 |
| March 1 st - 2 nd | Borges Ranch Regional Park (these special two day program requires advance registration) | Walnut Creek | (925) 942-0225 |
| Saturday, March 6 th | Lopez Lake | San Luis Obispo | (805) 788-2385 |
| Sunday, March 17 th | Vasona County Park | Los Gatos | (408) 354-4902 |
| Saturday, April 20 th | Lakeshore Park | Newark | (510) 742-4405 |
| Sunday, April 21 st | Lopez Lake | San Luis Obispo | (805) 788-2385 |
| Sunday, April 28 th | Lake Ralphine | Santa Rosa | (707) 543-3286 |
| Sunday, April 28 th | Heller County Park | San Jose | |
| Saturday, May 18 th | Edith More Lake Campbell | | (415) 892-0460 |
| Free Fishing Day - no fishing license required | | | |
| Saturday, June 8 th | Lake Cunningham | San Jose | (408) 277-4319 |
| Free Fishing Day - no fishing license required | | | |
| Saturday, Sept. 21 st | Vasona County Park | Los Gatos | (408) 354-4902 |
| Sunday, Nov. 3 rd | Lake Cunningham | San Jose | (408) 277-4319 |

Watch for the grand opening of the Quarry Lakes Regional Park in Spring 2002. For information, contact East Bay Regional Parks at (510) 635-0138 x2350. Please contact our office at (415) 892-0460 or erotman@dfg.ca.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

RABBIT SEASON HERE --- JULY 1 (proposed)

WILDLIFE AREAS OFFER MANY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

California hunters are looking forward to another rabbit season. The proposed season begins July 1 and extends through January 26, 2003 for cottontail, brush, pygmy and snowshoe rabbits. Jackrabbit season remains open year round.

Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The best time to hunt rabbits is early morning and at sunset, when they're most active. The limit is five per day, and 10 in possession statewide. There is no limit for black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits. Most shotguns, archery and rifles (including air rifles firing pellets, excluding BB's, powered by compressed air or gas) are legal for rabbit hunting. Pellet rifles became a legal weapon for taking rabbits just last year.

Hunters should consider wearing latex gloves when field dressing a rabbit. This safety measure will minimize their exposure to tularemia, a bacterial disease that is only rarely carried by rabbits. The disease is named after the place where it was discovered, Tulare, California. "Once the animal is field dressed it should be properly cooled, and it should always be cooked thoroughly," says Dr. Pam Swift of the Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Investigations Laboratory.

In 2000, 12,489 California hunters reported the harvest of about 76,000 cottontails, and 11,360 California hunters harvested 75,000 jack rabbits.

Rabbits are famous for speed, which is why they're so much fun to hunt. Jackrabbits hide by "freezing" in cover, but once they're jumped they head for open country. Cottontails run in a big circle after they're jumped, so many hunters will use a dog to trail the rabbit while the hunter waits for it to return. Look for rabbits in brushy, rocky areas where they can hide from predators. Brushy, stream side habitat is a favorite. ***If you are interested in creating brush piles or rock piles for rabbit habitat that will provide game for years to come, call Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068 and ask for tips on where and how to make a wildlife brush pile.***

Rabbits vary greatly in size, from less than a pound for a pygmy rabbit, to more than 10 pounds for a white-tailed jackrabbit. There are seven species of rabbit in California.

Recommendation- The Feather River Wildlife Area units located between Sacramento and Marysville-Yuba City had an abundance of cottontail rabbits in 2001. The combination of no flooding since 1997, good habitat, and favorable spring weather for upland game species produced an abundance of rabbits. If the 2002 spring flooding is not severe, 2002 should be another very good year. Bring your shotgun (no rifles or pistols are allowed), be there at daylight, enjoy the sunrise and good hunting.

Most of the Department's wildlife areas are open to rabbit hunting. There may, however, be restrictions to the method of take. For a complete listing of state and federal wildlife areas open to rabbit hunting, refer to the 2001/2002 *California Regulations For Hunting and Other Public Uses On State and Federal Areas (the new booklet for 2002/2003 will be available in late September)*. For complete hunting regulations consult the 2002-2003 *California Hunting Regulations, Mammals and Furbearers* which is available at all Department of Fish and Game offices and license agents in June.

Locations for hunting rabbits on state wildlife areas and other public lands w/ phone #'s for more info. Properties are generally listed from north to south. Phone #'s are for maps or more info.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres) - Tehama County -Type C area - 25 miles east of Red Bluff on Highway 36 to Plum Creek Road; or east on Hogsback Road. Cottontail in fair abundance. Best prospects near Plum Creek Road riparian area, High Trestle Road, and Finley Road. Jackrabbit abundant. Call DFG at (530) 597-2201.

Oroville Wildlife Area (10,000 acres) - Butte County - Type C area - **No rifles or pistols** - West of Oroville on Highway 162. Hunting is allowed only from September 1 through January 31 and during spring turkey season, when only turkeys may be hunted. Spring turkey hunting is by permit only, there is no fall turkey hunting allowed. Call DFG at (530) 538-2236.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area - Butte County - Hunting daily from September 15 through January 31 and for wild turkeys only during the spring wild turkey season - (4,150 acres) - 7 miles east of Oroville via Hwy 162; boat access to much of the area. The majority of the Recreation Area lands consists of a narrow strip surrounding Oroville Lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to one-half mile or more in some areas. Some U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands adjoin the Recreation Area. ***CA and mtn quail, wild turkey, band-tailed pigeon, rabbits, squirrels and pheasant are also available.*** No waterfowl or deer hunting allowed. Hunting on or from the water surface of Lake Oroville is prohibited. For a map contact the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 or call (530) 538-2200 or 538-2219.

Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area - Butte County -Type A area - **Rabbit hunting during pheasant hunt days only -No rifles or pistols** - Little Dry Creek Unit, 11 miles west of Gridley on Gridley Colusa Hwy and turn right at the wildlife area entrance. Howard Slough Unit, 11 miles west of Highway 99 on Highway 162 and turn right on ZZ Road for 1 mile to the check station. Llano Seco Unit, 13 miles west of Hwy 99 and turn right on Z Road/7 Mile Road for 7 miles to the check station on the left. Entry for rabbit hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., is controlled by waterfowl permit regulations. Call (530) 982-2169 for more info.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (9200 acres) - Butte County - Type A area - **Rabbit hunting during pheasant hunt days only - No rifles or pistols** - 10 miles east of Live Oak on Pennington and Almond Orchard Roads, (530) 846-3315. Entry for rabbit hunting on Sat., Sun., and Wed., is controlled by waterfowl permit regulations. Dove hunting is daily during the September dove season and only on waterfowl or pheasant hunt days during the late dove season.

Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (4,200 acres) - Yuba County - Type C area - 21 miles east of Marysville via Hwy 20, Marysville Road and Dolan Harding Road, DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900. Open for hunting from July 1 through January 31 and spring turkey season. An entry permit, issued by special drawing, is required for the first 9 days of the spring turkey season.

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres) - Yuba County - Type C area - East of Marysville on Highway 20 about 18 miles and turn right on Smartville Road for 1 mile. Hunt the riparian areas along Dry Creek and Little Dry Creek. Hunting is allowed only from September 1 through January 31 and during spring turkey season, when only turkeys may be hunted. An entry permit, issued by special drawing, is required for the first 9 days of the spring turkey season. Call DFG at (530) 538-2236.

Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (3766 acres) - Sutter County - Type C area - **No rifles or pistols** - 10 miles west of Yuba City via Highway 20 or Franklin Road or Oswald Road or Highway 113. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900.

Feather River Wildlife Area (2200 acres in 5 separate properties) Yuba and Sutter Counties - Type C areas - **No rifles or pistols** - 10-15 miles south of Yuba City and Marysville. **Abbott Lake and the O'Connor Lakes Units** are south of Yuba City on Garden Highway at the end of Star Bend Road. **The Nelson Slough Unit** is under the Highway 99 Bridge near Nicolaus. The **Star Bend and Lake of the Woods Units** are south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard and accessible from the Star Bend Fishing Access. DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. Hunt the heavy cover areas along the sloughs and levee ramps. Open for hunting from July 1 through January 31 and spring turkey season.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Dept. of Parks and Recreation (530) 885-4527/988-0205.

White Slough Wildlife Area (880 acres) - Type C area - Seven miles west of Lodi. **No rifles or pistols.** DFG, Region 2 (916) 358-2900. Hunting is allowed from September 1 through January 31.

New Hogan Lake - Hunting every day - 400 acres- 30 miles east of Stockton. **Quail, mourning dove, waterfowl, and rabbits are also available. Shotguns and archery equipment only.** Access via Hwy 12. Corps of Engineers (209) 772-1343.

New Melones Lake (500 acres) 25 miles east of Oakdale; Access via Hwy 108/120 to Hwy 49; CA quail, mourning dove and rabbits. Bureau of Reclamation (209) 536-9094.

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area - 14,000 acres - Type C area - **No rifles or pistols.** Located west and north of Highway 37 near the city of Vallejo, east and south of Highway 121 near the cities of Sonoma and Napa. The area is accessed by boat via Mud Slough, Napa Slough, Huichica Slough and other tributary sloughs. Hunt days are Sat., Sun., and Wed., during open seasons for waterfowl, coots, moorhen, snipe rabbits, pheasants, and doves, except that doves and rabbits may be hunted daily during the September dove season. Call DFG at 707 944-5500.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area, Solano County - 10,000 acres - Type A area - Rabbit allowed daily in July and on pheasant hunt days. Self-registration during the July rabbit hunt. Cottontail numbers are good. Jackrabbits are abundant. Access is 14 miles south of Fairfield (Hwy 12) on Grizzly Island Road. Call DFG at (707) 425-3828.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acre of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (85,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo and Colusa Counties. **Habitat:** Oak grassland and dense chaparral. **There are 3 access points. 1. North Fork Cache Creek Trailhead;** from Interstate Highway 5 at Williams, go west on Highway 20 approximately 33 miles to the parking lot on the south side of the road. The entrance is immediately past where Highway 20 crosses over North Fork Cache Creek. From Highway 101 at Calpella, go east on Highway 20 about 48 miles to the parking lot. **2. Langs Peak Road Access;** take Highway 16 south of Highway 20 to County Road 40. Follow the winding switchbacks for 4.5 miles to Langs Peak Road. Langs Peak road is a 4WD road. **3. Davis Street Access;** take Highway 53 south off Highway 20 to 40th Avenue and turn left at the stop light. Make immediate left and follow to Davis Street. Access is to the left of the Clearlake landfill entrance. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA and mtn quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. An entry permit for hunting, issued by special drawing by the DFG, is required for the first two days of the spring turkey season.** The Payne Ranch (13,000 acres) was recently purchased to improved habitat for wildlife and the tule elk herd. BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000 or DFG at (707) 944-5500

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (1,600 acres of DFG land) and Indian Valley Management Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties - **Habitat:** Dense chaparral with small scattered pockets of oak grassland. **Access:** About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 to Walker Ridge Road. Travel north on Walker Ridge Road to Indian Valley Reservoir. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, waterfowl, CA and mtn quail, dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** The BLM has developed two campgrounds with water and restroom facilities. A boat ramp is available at the north and south ends of the lake. **Warmwater fishing in the reservoir for largemouth bass, crappie, rainbow trout, bluegill and catfish.** Cache Creek below the reservoir is planted with brown trout and is open during trout season. BLM in Ukiah at 707 468-4000.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties. **Habitat:** Rugged chaparral with some oak woodland. **Access from Ukiah,** 5 miles via Talmage and Mill Creek roads. **Access from Lakeport,** 5 miles via Scott Creek Road which is a rugged unimproved dirt road, and is closed during the winter due to impassable high water. Because these roads are narrow and winding with steep slopes, large recreational vehicles and travel trailers are not recommended. The rifle range, located just north of the Willow Creek Day Use Site, has been developed specifically for target shooting. There are 5 camping areas. **The 27,000 acre North Cow Mountain RA is closed to Off-Highway Vehicles.** The 23,000 acre South Cow Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle RA has developed roads for OHV recreation. Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah (707) 468-4000.

Knoxville Recreation Area in Lake and Napa Counties; (18,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Napa Counties. **Habitat:** Chaparral and cypress. About 2/3 of the area burned in 1999. **Access:** From Lower Lake take Morgan Valley Road 13 miles to the **north entrance.** The north entrance is 1 mile past the main gate to the McLaughlin Mine. The **south entrance** is three miles further south at the intersection with Devilshead Road. The south entrance is 17 miles from Lake Berryessa. A target shooting area is located near the northern entrance. There are developed roads for Off-Highway Vehicles. Camping is permitted in undeveloped locations throughout the recreation area. Hunting Creek Camp is located at the intersection of Dunnigan Hill Road and Hunting Creek Road at Hunting Creek. It has 5 sites with shade structures, tables, restrooms and water. All roads and trails are open to motorized vehicles. **Deer, wild pig, coyote, CA and mtn quail, dove, squirrel, and rabbit are present.** Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah 707 468-4000.

Cedar Roughs Area (About 6,500 acres of BLM and DFG land in 2 blocks in Napa County). **Habitat:** Predominantly chaparral and cypress with some oak grassland. **Deer, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, valley and mtn quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** Camping allowed but there are no campsites. BLM Ukiah office at 707 468-4000. **Cedar Roughs main access:** Located off Pope Canyon Rd. 2.2 miles west of Pope Creek Bridge, Lake Berryessa or 6.3 miles east of the Pope Valley airstrip. Provides access to about 6500 acres of land. Park on south side of brown and yellow gate and follow Pope Creek upstream approx. 1/4 mile. Look for trail markers. Cross Pope creek and climb hill a short distance to an abandoned jeep trail. Jeep trail provides access into the main block of public land. Note: The location where abandoned jeep trail crosses Pope Creek is private land.

Sheldon Creek Recreation Area (1000 acres of BLM land) in Mendocino County. **Habitat:** rugged chaparral. **Access from Hopland,** 10 miles east of Hopland via the Younce Road (Old Toll Road)(narrow, winding road). Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present.** Campground with water. Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah 707 468-4000.

Boggs Mountain State Forest on Hwy 29 near Hobergs; **3,393 acres of mixed coniferous forest.** Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. **Deer, bear, wild pig, CA and mtn. quail, wild turkey, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbit, and band-tailed pigeon are present.** Access: From State Highway 29 at Middletown take Highway 175 north about 9 miles to the state forest entrance. Improved campsites with no water are available at 2 campgrounds. Boggs Mtn State Forest, PO Box 839, Cobb, CA 95426. 707 928-4378.

Mendocino National Forest in Glenn/Colusa/Mendocino/Lake Counties; Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA and mtn quail, band-tailed pigeon, tree squirrel, cottontail rabbit and mourning dove are present; For a map contact Mendocino NF, 420 East Laurel Street, Willows, CA 95988 (530) 934-3316. Maps are \$4-5.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area, Merced County - 700 acres - Type C area - **No rifles or pistols;** 12 miles NW of Los Banos on Highway south of Santa Nella and adjacent to O'Neill Forebay. Free permits at self-registration booth. Open for upland game hunting in season. An area that is known as home of the Junior Pheasant Hunts also has many other public use opportunities. Spring birding for small passerine birds is excellent. Several field trials will be held on the area during February and March and dog training is allowed. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area, Merced County - 800 acres - Type C area - Located at the top of Pacheco Pass on Dinosaur Point Road is an area that overlooks San Luis Reservoir. Free permits at self-registration booth. It is a beautiful spot to have a picnic, take a nature walk, and enjoy the wild flowers. Oaks, chemise and holly-leaf cherry abound on the area. **Shotgun or bow and arrows only for game in season.** Pig hunting is also available throughout the year. It should be noted that the number of pigs taken on the area in the past has been low. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

North Grasslands Wildlife Area, Merced and Stanislaus counties - 6,335 acres total - Type A area. Total of three units: **Gadwall Unit** (south of Hwy 152, east of Los Banos), **Salt Slough Unit** (six miles northeast of Los Banos), and **China Island Unit** (northeast of Gustine). Foot access only. **No rifles or pistols. Rabbit hunting is allowed daily from July 1 through September 15. Dove hunting in season. No fee, self-registration during non-waterfowl season.** Hunt days for waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe are Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant hunt days are every day during the first nine days of the pheasant season and on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the remainder of the pheasant season and on the day following Thanksgiving. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

Los Banos Wildlife Area, Merced County - 6,000 acres - Type A area. Vehicles permitted on designated roads from end of waterfowl season through September 15. **No rifles or pistols. Rabbit hunting is allowed daily from July 1 through September 15. Dove hunting in season. No fee, self-registration during non-waterfowl season.** Hunt days for waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe are Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant hunt days are every day during the first nine days of the pheasant season and on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the remainder of the pheasant season and on the day following Thanksgiving. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

Volta Wildlife Area, Merced County - 3,000 acres - Type A area. **Rabbit hunting is allowed daily from July 1 through September 15. Dove hunting in season. No fee, self-registration during non-waterfowl season.** Hunt days for waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe are Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant hunt days are every day during the first nine days of the pheasant season and on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during the remainder of the pheasant season and on the day following Thanksgiving. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, Merced and Santa Clara counties - 6,316 acres - Type C area. Free permits at self-registration booths. Divided into two units. **Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area:** This hilly, 4000 acre wildlife area in western Merced County, just off Highway 152, is closed to all hunting and shooting sports until the Zone A deer season opens. Wild pig hunting opportunities on Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area opens with the Zone A deer season with the either bow and arrow or rifle, depending on the season. From the opening of the Zone A deer archery season through the last Sunday in January, wild pig may be taken with archery equipment. However, the opening weekend of general (rifle) season is restricted to persons holding a permit issued through a drawing to be held mid-July. For persons who desire to hunt wild pig with rifle or pistol legal for the taking of big game the remainder of the season, the area is open from the Monday after the opening of the general Zone A deer season through the last Sunday in January. Upland game hunting allowed during the time period when the area is open for weapons. **Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area:** While not as steep as Upper Cottonwood Creek WA, this 2,000 acre area offers easier hiking and access. No hunting or shooting sports are allowed until Zone A deer season opens. On Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, wild pig hunting opportunities will be the same as on Upper Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area with two exceptions: 1) only shotgun with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow may be used and 2) there is no drawing restriction for opening weekend of the general Zone A deer season. No rifles or pistols are allowed on the Lower Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area. Upland game hunting allowed during the time period when the area is open for weapons. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

West Hilmar Wildlife Area - Merced County, 340 acres: Access to this 340 acre area is by boat only so there won't be a lot of other people visiting the area when you are there. There are lots of oak and cottonwood trees on the area and it is an excellent place to visit for a quiet picnic. **Shotgun or bow and arrows only for game in season.** Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area - Fresno County - 828 acres - Type C area. Free permits at self-registration booth. Spring is the time for fishing in the reservoir located about seven miles west of Interstate 5 on Little Panoche Road. While the trail down to the water is steep, black bass, crappie and sun fish make the hike worth while. Dog trials and training are also very popular in February and March. Pig hunting is allowed throughout the year without dogs. **Method of take is restricted to shotgun with slugs, 12 gauge or smaller, or bow and arrow.** It should be noted that the number of pigs taken on the area in the past has been low. Call DFG at (209) 826-0463.

SPECIAL "JUNIOR" TURKEY HUNT - Spring 2002

University of California - Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center

1. This junior turkey hunt is sponsored by the U.C. Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center and the Department of Fish and Game Gamebird Heritage Program. Hunters will be selected by lottery. The cost is \$20.00 per hunter (no cost until selected). A current junior hunting license is required. Each junior hunter, or junior hunting party, must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (a guide could serve as the non-hunting adult, as long as a parent or legal guardian signifies this on the minor's release form).

2. A drawing will be held on March 4, 2002. If your name is drawn, you will receive notification by March 11th. Only one application per junior hunter. Up to two junior hunters may be selected together as a party and they should submit their applications together. It is important to carefully read the application and follow the instructions. If you do not indicate a guide is desired, one will not be available for you.

3. Policy Statement - If you participated in this hunt last year (April 2001), you will not be eligible to participate in this year's program. This will give more junior hunters an opportunity to participate in this program. If you still possess a Jr. License next spring, you will be eligible once again.

4. An orientation tour of the area is available the evening before each hunt, but it is not required. You will be able to scout the area assigned to you that evening, until dark.

5. If you have any questions, call the Department of Fish and Game at (530) 743-5068. Applications can be copied for others interested in the lottery. Applications should be mailed to the address above, or faxed to (530) 639-2419. Applications must be printed legibly and completely.

(Complete this section and return — Please print neatly) **Illegible or incomplete applications will be disqualified.**

Name:

Jr. Hunting License #

Or Hunter Safety Course Completion Date

Address:

City

State

Zip

Area Code + Home Phone

If available, would you like an experienced turkey hunter to accompany you and your adult companion? YES NO

Date Choice: April 13_____, April 14_____, April 27_____, April 28_____

(Mark 1, 2, 3, & 4 for date preferences, 1 for first choice, 4 for last, and N/A for dates not available)

Mail to: U.C. Junior Turkey Hunt, 8279 Scott Forbes Road, Browns Valley, CA 95918-9636

Renewing Your Wing Beat News Subscription

If there is a "1-1-98" date on the back page address label of this copy of Wing Beat News, you need to send us a post card or letter with your name and mailing address as shown to renew. As this newsletter is paid for with Upland Game Bird Stamp funds, we are required to reaffirm the subscriber's interest. You may consider including the name and address of hunter friend who would be interested in receiving WB News when you renew. Please keep in mind we MUST receive your renewal no later than August 1, 2002 or you will be dropped from our subscribers list.

Hunter Education Classes Offered

Now is the time to sign up for a hunter education course. There will be many junior pheasant hunts planned this fall for young hunters. All hunters must complete the course before they can buy a California hunting license. Most classes are 10 hours in length and cost \$10 to \$15. The Department of Fish and Game has hunter education class information phone recordings that can be called at any time for hunter education classes in your area. If the phone recordings do not provide a convenient class location, contact your local sporting goods stores, shooting ranges and city parks/recreation departments for hunter education classes. Check the yellow pages under "guns and gunsmiths" for hunting/shooting related businesses. On the internet, go to the DFG home page at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>, click on "Information and Education", then "Hunter Education". You will find a list of instructors from all over the state.

DFG Hunter Education Information

Redding/Northern Cal - (530) 225-2003; Coordinator (530) 225-2304.
Chico-Sacramento-Stockton-Vacaville - (916) 351-0833; Coordinator (916) 358-2908.
San Francisco Bay Area - (707) 944-5576; Coordinator (707) 944-5544.
Modesto-Bakersfield - (559) 243-4027 press 2, press 2; Coordinator (559) 222-3761.

Calif. Department of Fish & Game
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Game Bird
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